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*Indexed*

# THE ANNETTE APPLE.



The **BLACK ANNETTE** Apple has no rival.  
For Hardiness, Productiveness, Symmetry of Tree, Beauty of Fruit, superior excellence of Flavor, very late keeping and remarkable in adhering to the tree in wind storms.

Read Description and Testimonials.  
For circulars and further information,  
Address,

A. BRANSTON,  
West Branch Iowa.

THE BLACK ANNIE APPLES was first brought to this state by A. Plumley, in the spring of 1836. A few years before this a fellow-nurseryman sent him a bundle of scions marked Black Annette, which he very highly extolled as one of the best apples. These were grafted and brought to Iowa as stated in the following letter:

Centerdale, Iowa, Sept. 1st., '87.

This is to certify that I brought with me in the year 1863 from Marietta Ohio, the Black Annette Apple, establishing a nursery at West Liberty, Iowa, the same year and sold trees in several counties here in Eastern Iowa. Now the Black Annette trees are still standing as land marks bearing heavy annual crops, when almost all other varieties are dead and gone. Fruit of the very best quality, medium size, skin smooth, color green, almost overspread with dark red, keeping till apples come again. Tree a good grower and almost as hardy as the far famed Duchess of Oldenburg. No sun scald, or blight about it. I consider the Black Annette for Iowa worth all the other varieties combined for late keeping and hardiness of tree, bears very young annual crops and as a desert apple is number one and a general favorite with all. Plant the Black Annette and take as good care as you do of your corn and you will have plenty of good fruit.

Yours Respectfully  
AARON PLUMLEY

For a number of years our attention has been called to this apple by those fruiting it, especially by I. E. Schooley a veteran fruit grower near the south line of Cedar county, and I have propagated it to a limited extent, but since the severe winter of '82 and '83 when so many of our choice varieties were killed have I propagated it more extensively. The trees have proven entirely hardy, healthy, and enormously productive. I could not name another variety among the one hundred or more I have had on trial or been familiar with for the last thirty years that I deem its equal.

We picked from three trees of this variety, planted twelve to fifteen years ago, twelve bushels of good marketable apples, an average of four bushels to the tree. Last year these same trees averaged five bushels.

One acre planted twenty feet apart or one hundred and ten trees to the acre, at this rate would give four hundred and forty bushels or nine hundred and ninety bushel to the acre, in two years, at one dollar per bushel would give nine hundred and ninety dollars, and this price is low, as they could be sold in our city markets late in the spring at from two to three dollars per bushel.

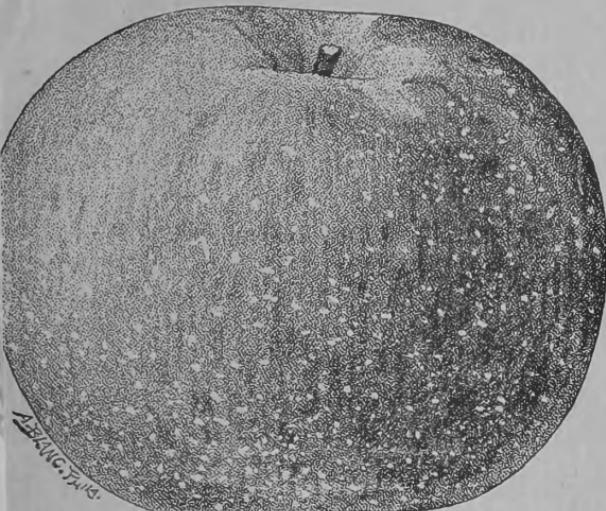
What better investment can the Farmer or Fruit Grower make, than to plant this variety extensively?

J. L. Bullock in Iowa State Register of Sept. 9th, 1887 says:

**BLACK ANNIE APPLE:** For the past three years we have called attention to this long keeping, handsome and really good variety quite extensively grown for many years in the western part of Cedar and Muscatine counties. It does not seem to be the Black Annette of Downing.

# West \* Branch \* Nurseries,

WEST BRANCH, IOWA.



THE ANNETTE APPLE.

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## Nine Reasons ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Why Everybody should Plant the Annette.

1. It is a Strong Grower in the Nursery.
2. It is a Symmetrical tree in the Orchard.
3. It is as Hardy as many of the Russian trees.
4. It is the Earliest Annual Bearer known.
5. It is a very Late Keeper of the Best Quality.
6. It is Remarkable in adhering to the tree in storms.
7. It Retains its Fruit on the tree very late in the Fall.
8. It always Sells for a high price in the Market.
9. It never has been known to Blight or Sun-scald.

## The Annette Apple.

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WE take pleasure in introducing to your attention this new and valuable apple—the ANNETTE. As time passes it confirms what has been claimed for this variety, that it will be invaluable to the farmers and fruit growers of the West, as a *late keeping*, hardy, prolific, early, annual bearer, of best quality.

Ten or more years ago our attention was called to this apple by Mr. I. E. Schooley, a veteran fruit grower of this (Cedar) county, and all these years I have propagated it to some extent, but since the severe winter of 1882-3, when so many of our choice varieties were killed, I have been propagating it extensively.

The trees have proven entirely healthy, hardy and enormously productive, often fruiting in the nursery rows; one tree last year, five years old, matured fourteen medium sized apples, and this year has more than double that number.

I could not name a variety among one

hundred or more I have on trial or have been familiar with for the last thirty years, that I deem its equal. Having such confidence in its success, I do not hesitate to press its claims, believing it to be the Apple that is sure to make the money for the farmers and fruit growers of the West.

~HISTORY.~

The Annette Apple was first brought to this State by Mr. Aaron Plumley, in the spring of 1866. Two years before this a fellow nurseryman, by the name of Bell sent a bundle of scions, which were grafted, and this entire stock brought to Iowa, as stated in the following letter:

*Centerdale, Iowa, Sept. 1, 1887.*

This is to certify that I brought with me, in the spring of 1866, from Ohio, the Black Annette Apple, establishing a nursery at West Liberty, Iowa, the same year, and sold trees in several counties in Eastern Iowa. These trees are still standing as landmarks, bearing heavy annual crops when almost all other varieties are dead and gone.

Tree a good grower, and almost as hardy as the far famed Duchess of Oldenburg. No sun-scald or blight about it. Fruit of the very best quality, medium size, skin smooth, color green, almost overspread with dark red, keeping till apples come again.

I consider this, for Iowa, worth all the other varieties combined for late keeping, hardiness of tree, bears very young, annual crops and as a desert apple is number one and a general favorite with all. Plant the Black Annette, and take as good care as you do of your corn, and you will have plenty of good fruit. Yours Respectfully,

AARON PLUMLEY.

We have had extensive correspondence, and have received hundreds of nurserymen's catalogues throughout the United States, and as yet have been unable to find it anywhere except here in Cedar and Muscatine counties. We can warrant our stock as genuine, as they are from these trees, but would warn every one to beware of untried stock offered by the traveling tree dealer.

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THE West Branch Nurseries were established in the Spring of 1867, by the present proprietor, the object being to grow *Iowa Trees for Iowa Planters*. It is located in the best fruit belt in Eastern Iowa, midway between the Iowa and Cedar Rivers, on high prairie lands, the soil being well adapted to the production of healthy trees and plants.

## Testimonials.

### Bears Early and a Good Crop every Year.

I do hereby certify that I planted my first Black Annette trees in the Spring of 1866, and the second year after planting they commenced bearing, and have not failed to have a good crop every year since. They hang on the tree well in the Fall. Fit for cooking in mid-winter, and keep in the ordinary way until the middle of May. Tree as hardy as the Fameuse. I am confident I would get more profit from six trees than one hundred of the Russian trees, such as traveling tree agents are selling throughout the land. Respectfully,

I. E. SCHOOLEY.

*Centerdale, Iowa, 10mo. 3, 1887.*

### The Most Profitable of Any.

In reply to your request as to my experience with the Black Annette Apple, I will say that I consider it the most profitable of any I have grown, out of forty different varieties, and one of the best for table use, bearing every year; tree hardy as the Duchess of Oldenburg, and the fruit does not drop or blow off like most varieties. I think more of it than any other I have in my orchard. Yours truly,

*West Liberty, Iowa, Oct. 3, 1887.*

W. B. GREGG.

### First Premium as Best Winter Apple.

I have in my orchard one Black Annette Apple tree set in 1881. It had over one hundred and seventy-five apples on this year. A plate of them took first premium at the West Branch Fair for the best winter apple. Yours respectfully,

*West Branch, Iowa, Oct. 15, 1887.*

G. L. BARNES.

### One of the Hardest.

Six years ago I bought Mr. Plumley's place for a stock farm, which at that time had several thousand apple trees.

many of which are now dead. Among those that are alive and healthy are a lot of the Black Annette, which I consider next to the Oldenberg in hardness, best keeper and best in quality of all others. Never fails to produce an abundant crop of medium sized fruit. We keep them till in June.

Yours truly,

W. F. SEE.

*West Liberty, Iowa, Aug. 18, 1887.*

#### The best Authority.

From Transactions of the Iowa Horticultural Society, for 1885, page 253, in paper by A. G. Williams:

"The Black Annette, an old variety but little known: this apple has been fruited for, I think, seventeen or more years in Cedar county, and has not failed to give a crop during that time, being equally as productive as any other variety grown in that vicinity, the Ben Davis not excepted; it is also an excellent nursery tree, and is perfectly hardy."

#### Long-Keeping, Handsome, Really Good.

J. L. Budd, in *Iowa State Register* of Sept. 9th, 1887, says:

"BLACK ANNETTE APPLE.—For the past three years we have called attention to this long-keeping, handsome and really good variety, quite extensively grown for many years in the western part of Cedar and Muscatine counties. It does not seem to be the 'Black Annette,' of Downing."

#### Tender, Fresh and Sound.

From the West Branch *Local Record*, of June 28th:

"We consider the Annette as late a keeper as any known, having given it the editorial test on the 20th of June; we found it tender, fresh and sound."

#### A Perfectly Sound Tree.

My father planted an orchard of about one hundred apple trees in 1868; among them was one Annette, which was the first to bear, and has scarcely failed to produce a good crop every year since, and is now the only perfectly sound tree in the orchard; we expect to pick five or six bushels of apples from it this Fall. Respectfully, LINDLEY HEALD.

*West Branch, Iowa, Sept. 22, 1888.*

#### A Veteran Ex-Nurseryman's Opinion.

Having been presented with a sample of the much sought after Annette Apple on the 21st day of July, I feel free to say that I believe it to possess first-class flavor and keeping qualities.

Respectfully,

*Springdale, Iowa.*

A. RALEY.

#### Half Bushel Four Years After Planting.

We have one of the Annette trees, planted in 1883, which produced fully one-half bushel of apples last year, and this year is about as full. It is the only apple tree of the same size bearing in the orchard. We consider them a long keeper of good eating and cooking qualities. Respectfully,

*Centerdale, Iowa, Sept. 22, 1888.*

LEWIS J. HEALD.

#### A No. 1 in Quality.

From April number of the *Western Horticulturist*:

"We herewith illustrate the Annette Apple, a variety of great promise. Was first planted near West Liberty, Iowa, in the Spring of 1866. These trees are still standing, and bearing heavy crops. \* \* \* April 8th we tested this variety by the eating thereof, and will surely have to say that it is Number One in quality."

#### A Substantial Certificate.

We, the undersigned, residents of Cedar County, Iowa, having dealt more or less with A. Branson, of the West Branch Nurseries, would cheerfully recommend him to all those desiring anything in his line as certain to furnish choice stock, true to name, of varieties best adapted to this climate, as he has had many years experience in growing Fruit and Nursery Stock in the West.

W. M. MARIS, West Branch Iowa.

B. VORE, do

T. COGESHALL, do

S. ARMSTRONG, do

G. P. WOOD, Springdale, Iowa.

I. E. SCHOOLEY, Centerdale, Iowa

# PRICES.

We make the following liberal prices, as we wish to distribute this valuable variety as generally as possible throughout the Western States:

Five to Seven Feet, each, - - - 40

Four to Five Feet, - - - - - 35

Three to Four Feet, - - - - - 30

Two to Three Feet, one year, 25

One Extra Tree for every Six ordered.

Scions, per hundred, - - - - - \$1.50

Scions, 10, by mail, - - - - - 25

Correspondence Solicited.

A. BRANSON,

WEST BRANCH, IOWA

\* \* Reliable \* Local \* Agents \* Wanted. \* \*

△ The cut on 1st page was taken from medium-sized apple and is a perfect picture of the Annette.

## TESTIMONIALS.

Centerdale, 10, 3, 1887.

I do hereby certify that I planted my first Black Annette trees in the spring of 1856 and the second year after planting they commenced bearing and have not failed to have a good crop every year since. Hang on the tree well in the fall. Fit for cooking in midwinter and keep in the ordinary way till the middle of May. Tree as hardy as famous. I am confident I would get more profit from six trees than from one hundred of the Russian trees, such as the traveling tree agents are selling through the land.

Respectfully,  
I. E. SCHOOLEY.

West Liberty, Ia., Aug. 18, '87.

Dear Sir:—Six years ago I bought Mr. Plumleys' place of 270 acres for a stock farm which at that time had several thousand apple trees, many of which are now dead. Among those that are alive and healthy are a lot of the Black Annette which I consider next to the Oldenburg in hardiness, best keeper and best in quality of all others, never fail to produce an abundant crop of medium sized fruit. We keep them till in June

Yours Truly,  
W. F. SEE.

West Liberty, Ia., Oct. 3, 1887.

Mr. Abner Branson, West Branch, Iowa.

In reply to your request as to my experience with the Black Annette apple, I will say that I consider it the most profitable of any variety I have grown, out of forty different varieties and one of the best for table use, bearing every year, tree as hardy as the Duchess of Oldenburg, and the fruit does not drop or blow off like most varieties. I think more of it than anything I have in my orchard.

Yours Truly,  
W. B. GREGG.

West Branch, Iowa, Oct. 15, '87.

I have in my orchard one Black Annette apple tree set in 1881. It had one hundred and seventy-five apples on this year. A plate of them took first premium at the West Branch Fair for the best winter apple. I recommend this apple as the best late keeping apple for the West.

Yours Respectively,  
G. L. BARNES.

From Transactions of the Iowa Horticultural Society, for 1885, page 253, in paper by A. G. Williams:

The Black Annette, an old variety but little known; this apple has been fruited for I think seventeen or more years in Cedar County, and has not failed to give a crop during that time being equally as productive as any variety grown in that vicinity, the Ben Davis not excepted; it is also an excellent nursery tree and is perfectly hardy.

From these letters and testimonials our readers can see how this apple is esteemed by the Farmers and Fruit Growers wherever planted.

Having such confidence in the success of this variety, I do not hesitate to press its claims on the public and recommend it to all Western fruit growers as the variety to plant to be successful, for the following reasons

It is a STRONG grower in the Nursery.

It makes a symmetrical tree in the orchard.

It is as hardy as many of the Russian trees

It is the best early annual bearer known in the West.

It is a late keeper of the very best quality.

It is remarkable in adhering to the tree in wind storms.

It always sells for a high price in the market.

It never has known to blight or sun scald.

I have a limited stock of nice trees I offer at the following prices:

5 to 7 feet	40 cts.
4 to 5 "	35 "
3 to 4 "	30 "
2 " by mail	40 "

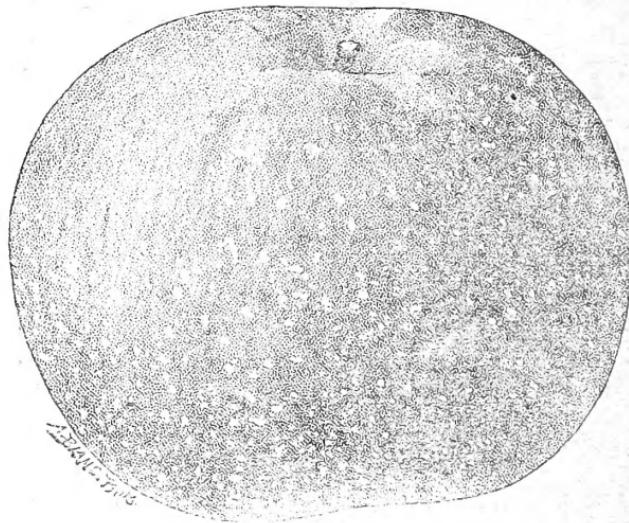
One extra tree given for every twelve ordered.

Scions per 100 per 1000

Boxed or bundled and delivered at express office.

Well Crown Stock, true to name and in good condition, our pride,

Hardy Varieties adapted to the Northwest  
our Specialty.



Black Annette Apple.

This cut was taken from a medium sized apple and is as near a representation of the apple as can be made.

Orders promptly attended to by

A. BRANSON, Prop., West Branch Nursery & Fruit Farm.  
West Branch, Cedar Co., Iowa.

Remember we have nearly the entire stock of this variety in the West, (as a few scions only, have been sent out for trial.) Beware of giving your orders to the traveling tree agent, for if you do you will be disappointed when the trees come in fruit.